

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, no claims have been amended. Claims 7-10 and 24-26 have been withdrawn. Claims 1-6, 11-23, 27 and 28 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1, 3, 12-18, 20 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Edamura (U.S. Patent No. 5,274,209) (hereinafter "Edamura '209"). This rejection is traversed.

Edamura '209 discusses a microwave oven having an operation panel that includes a display 151 for outputting information of a selected cooking program, dedicated menu keys 152 for specifically addressing cooking programs stored in a memory corresponding to each menu, a heating start key 153, an attachment 157 to the main body of a control device for memory modules 156a, 156b such as a RAM pack in which cooking programs are stored and a count number call 158 for inputting an instruction for reading the number of use for each dedicated menu key 152. Edamura '209, column 4, lines 33-46.

Claims 1 and 3

Independent claim 1 recites: "...an external storage unit arranged independently from the control unit...." In contrast to claim 1, Edamura '209 discusses memory modules attached to the control device through attachment 157 as is shown Figure 8 of Edamura '209. Claim 1 recites that the external storage unit is arranged independently from the control unit.

Claim 3 is dependent on claim 1 and is therefore believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed above.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 12-18 and 20

Independent claims 12, 13, 14 and 15 recite: "...an external storage unit, separate from the control unit...." In contrast to claims 12-15, Edamura '209 discusses memory modules attached to the control device through attachment 157 as is shown Figure 8 of Edamura '209. Claims 12-15 recite that the external storage unit is separate from the control unit.

Claims 16-18 and 20 are dependent on claim 15 and are therefore believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed above.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim 28

Independent claim 28 recites: "...an external storage unit separate from the controller...." In contrast to claim 28, Edamura '209 discusses memory modules attached to the control device through attachment 157 as is shown Figure 8 of Edamura '209. Claim 28 recites that the external storage unit is separate from the controller.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1-3, 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hirata et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,097,016) (hereinafter "Hirata"). This rejection is traversed.

Hirata discloses a cooking apparatus having a microcomputer 81, a power supply circuit 82, a key circuit 83 for generating signals corresponding to the operation of the keys arranged on the operation panel 10, a sensor 84 for monitoring the temperature, an external storage memory 87 having large storage capacity, a display control circuit 88 for driving and controlling the liquid crystal display and a nonvolatile memory (EEPROM) 90 that allows data to be freely written thereto and erased therefrom. Hirata, column 4, lines 11-31. The external storage memory 87 is used to store display data, alarm sound data, and cooking data, as well as the programs executed by the microcomputer. Hirata, column 4, lines 42-44.

Claim 1 recites: "...an external storage unit arranged independently from the control unit and electrically connected to the control unit to communicate with the control unit, the external storage unit storing cooking data and/or operational data required to perform one or more new cooking modes." In contrast to claim 1, Hirata does not disclose an external storage unit storing

cooking data to perform new cooking modes. The external memory 87 disclosed in Hirata may be substituted for internal storage memory 81d when the cooking apparatus only requires moderate storage capacity. Hirata, column 4, lines 45-50. The external storage unit recited in claim 1 is for new cooking modes.

Claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 are dependent on claim 1 and are therefore believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed above.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1-3, 12-20 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Edamura (U.S. Patent No. 4,841,125) (hereinafter "Edamura '125"). This rejection is traversed.

Edamura '125 discloses a cooking apparatus having several embodiments. One embodiment discloses a control unit having a RAM divided in to memory regions. Edamura '125, column 3, lines 6-8. Another embodiment discloses a menu selection aid unit that is removably attached to the control unit. Edamura '125, column 3, lines 26-28. Another embodiment discloses a control unit having a RAM for storing data. Edamura '125, column 3, lines 42-45.

Claims 1-3

Independent claim 1 recites: "...an external storage unit arranged independently from the control unit...." In contrast to claim 1, Edamura '125 discloses memory modules 56a and 56b attached to the control unit through module access panel 57 as is shown Figure 2 of Edamura '125. The memory modules 56a and 56b are placed in the control unit. Edamura '125, column 6, lines 1-30. Claim 1 recites that the external storage unit is arranged independently from the control unit.

Claims 2 and 3 are dependent on claim 1 and are therefore believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed above.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 12-20

Independent claims 12, 13, 14 and 15 recite: "...an external storage unit, separate from the control unit...." In contrast to claims 12-15, Edamura '125 discloses memory modules 56a and 56b attached to the control unit through module access panel 57 as is shown Figure 2 of Edamura '125. The memory modules 56a and 56b are placed in the control unit. Edamura '125, column 6, lines 1-30. Claims 12-15 recite that the external storage unit is separate from the control unit.

Claims 16-20 are dependent on claim 15 and are therefore believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed above.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim 28

Independent claim 28 recites: "...an external storage unit separate from the controller...." In contrast to claim 28, Edamura '125 discloses memory modules 56a and 56b attached to the control unit through module access panel 57 as is shown Figure 2 of Edamura '125. The memory modules 56a and 56b are placed in the control unit. Edamura '125, column 6, lines 1-30. Claim 28 recites that the external storage unit is separate from the controller.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 5, 6, 22 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edamura '209 or Hirata or Edamura '125 in view of Demaline (U.S. Patent No. 5,968,393) (hereinafter "Demaline"). This rejection is traversed.

Demaline discloses a hot water controller including a microcontroller 18 having internal memory storage capability that is preferably of the EEPROM type. Demaline, column 6, lines 35-37.

Claims 5 and 6

Claims 5 and 6 are dependent on claim 1 and are therefore believed to allowable for the reasons discussed above. Claims 5 and 6 further recite features that patentably distinguish over Edamura '209, Hirata, Edamura '125 and Demaline, either alone or in combination. For example, claim 5 recites that the external storage unit includes a non-volatile memory device supporting rewriting of data.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 22 and 23

Claims 22 and 23 are dependent on claim 15 and are therefore believed to allowable for the reasons discussed above. Claims 22 and 23 further recite features that patentably distinguish over Edamura '209, Hirata, Edamura '125 and Demaline, either alone or in combination. For example, claim 22 recites that the external storage unit includes a non-volatile memory device supporting rewriting of data.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The applicants acknowledge with appreciation that claims 11 and 27 have been allowed and claims 4 and 21 contain allowable subject matter. Regarding claims 4 and 21, these claims are dependent on claims 1 and 15, respectively, and are therefore believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed above.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.


Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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